

CLAIMS

1. A networked communications apparatus comprising at least one server and a plurality of user stations, wherein the user stations comprise
5 terminals arranged to receive information from the at least one server by means of a connection via a first network, the apparatus further comprising:

storage means holding a profile database, which profile database contains data representing a characteristic behaviour of an associated user terminal network address or addresses, the apparatus including means for
10 automatically acquiring such data in response to an activity of the associated user and storing the same together with the associated user terminal network address or addresses in the profile database;

wherein the user station further comprises a portable communications device coupled with said terminal and connectable to said at least one server via a second network, wherein the user terminal is configured to perform the automatic acquisition of data for the profile database, said data being transferred to said server via said portable communications device following establishment of a connection via said second network.

20 2. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said portable communications device comprises a mobile telephone, said second network is a telecommunications network.

25 3. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first network is the Internet and the user terminals comprise at least a display device coupled with processing means hosting an Internet browser and user-operable means for control of the same.

30 4. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, wherein one or more of said terminals comprises a television receiver further configured to access and display data from the World Wide Web.

5. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the coupling between the portable communications device and the respective user terminal comprises a wireless link.

5 6. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, wherein data transfer via said wireless link follows a predetermined set of message transfer protocols.

10 7. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the portable communications device further comprises a buffer arranged to store data received from said server and addressed to the respective user terminal, and means for reading stored data from said buffer and sending said data on to the user terminal.

15 8. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, wherein a said portable communications device further comprises means configured to determine whether a respective user terminal is available to receive data from said server and, if so, to forward such data and, if not, to buffer such data until such time as either the respective user terminal becomes available or the buffer becomes full.

20 9. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, wherein a said portable communications device further comprises means configured to determine whether said server is available to receive data from a respective user terminal and, if so, to forward such data and, if not, to buffer such data until such time as either the server becomes available or the buffer becomes full.

25 10. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the or each said portable communications device further comprises the technical features of the respective user terminal.

30 11. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the coupling with said user terminal is by wireless transmission therefrom, and the portable

communications device means for receiving wireless transmissions from the terminal are further configured to receive additional data transmitted wirelessly from other sources.

5 12. A method of data communication for use in a networked communications system comprising at least one server and a plurality of user stations, wherein the user stations comprise terminals which can receive information from the at least one server by means of a connection via a first network, the method comprising:

10 providing a profile database, which profile database contains data representing a characteristic behaviour of an associated user terminal network address or addresses, the data being acquired automatically in response to an activity of the associated user and being stored together with the associated user terminal network address or addresses in the profile database;

15 wherein the user station further comprising a portable communications device coupled with said terminal and connectable to said at least one server via a second network, the user terminal performs the automatic acquisition of data for the profile database, said data being transferred to said server via said portable communications device following establishment of a connection via said second network.

20 13. A method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said portable communications device comprises a mobile telephone and stored access data for establishing connection comprises a telephone number for said mobile telephone.